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*a!*

element ascends toward said suction band due to a suction force, thereby contacting a layer of particulate smoking material already deposited on said suction band; and

depositing additional smoking material on said suction band and said fibriform element.

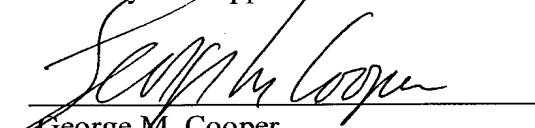
#### REMARKS

The specification of the subject application has been amended to add appropriate headings. The original claims 1-18 have been canceled, and new claims 19-38, in accordance with U.S. practice, have been added. There are now 3 independent claims and 20 total claims pending in the application. Entry of the new claims prior to examination and prior to calculation of the filing fee is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 8, 2001

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